



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Airbus Helicopters EC-120

FACT SHEET



The Airbus Helicopters (formerly known as American Eurocopter) EC-120 aircraft is a medium-range, turbine-powered helicopter used by CBP's Office of Air and Marine (OAM) primarily as a Light Observation Helicopter for aerial support.

OAM's EC-120, which flies with a crew of one (pilot), provides a highly-effective aerial surveillance platform in the border desert areas, where terrain can be difficult to traverse on foot. The EC-120 also has a low sound profile, excellent flight deck visibility, and exceptional maneuverability.

The EC-120 design offers OAM the ability to conduct maintenance tasks with a limited need for specific tools, which significantly reduces the operating cost of the aircraft. In addition, the new design of the main blades makes them resistant to impact and corrosion free. It is equipped with energy absorbing seats for pilot, copilot, and passengers.

Performance and Weights:

- **Fast Cruise Speed**
120 knots (138 mph)
- **Service Ceiling Altitude**
20,000 feet
- **Range**
383 nautical miles (440 miles)
- **Endurance**
3 hours
- **Maximum Gross Weight**
3,781 pounds

Features:

- This Light Observation Helicopter is often used to assist CBP ground personnel in sign-cutting, which is the skill of detecting and interpreting the traces of activity people or animals may have left behind.